

COMMISSIONER WOOD NAMED IN \$5,000 GRAFT CHARGE

FINAL EDITION The Evening World. FINAL EDITION

PRICE ONE CENT. Copyright, 1915, by The News Publishing Co. (The New York World). NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1915. 18 PAGES PRICE ONE CENT.

AUSTRIA REPORTED READY TO BACK DOWN; SPECIAL COUNCIL TAKES UP U. S. DEMAND

BRIBE ASKED FOR R. C. WOOD FOR SIGNAL CONTRACT VOTE, SAYS COMPANY'S PRESIDENT

Updegraff Also Declares That His Concern Paid Wood \$1,500 for "Special Services" Just Before Appointment.

Walter D. Updegraff, President of the Union Switch and Signal Company, which offered a bid to equip the Centre Street loop of the New Broadway-Fourth Avenue subway, testified to-day before the Thompson Investigating Committee that his company dismissed Sidney G. Johnson because he asked for \$5,000, which he said he would pay to Public Service Commissioner Robert C. Wood. For that sum, Johnson declared, Wood would see to it that this contract was awarded to the Union Switch and Signal Company.

President Updegraff also swore that on May 6, 1914—within two weeks before he was appointed Public Service Commissioner—Wood received \$1,500 from his company for "special services" in obtaining a similar contract with the Kansas City, Clay County and St. Joseph Railroad.

Sidney G. Johnson's letter, asking for the \$5,000 for Wood, was put in evidence, as were the voucher for \$1,500 and the canceled check for \$1,500 bearing Robert C. Wood's endorsement.

When Commissioner Wood was asked later in the day what he had to say about the accusation made against him he replied:

"It's all news to me. There is no truth in it."

"Will you have a more detailed statement to make later?" he was asked.

"What more can I add to what I have already said?" he answered.

Mr. Updegraff swore that he has been president of the Union Switch and Signal Company of Pittsburgh since July, 1914, succeeding Henry O. Prout. Sidney G. Johnson was Vice President in charge of sales. George Westinghouse was President before Mr. Prout, who for years had general charge.

Q. Had you a disagreement with Mr. Johnson over an expenditure he wished to make? A. Yes. Late last June or early in July Mr. Johnson asked for \$5,000. I wanted to know what he wanted it for. After some time I was told he wanted the \$5,000 for the purpose of paying it to Mr. Wood.

Q. One of the Public Service Commissioners in the First District of New York? A. Yes. I refused to pay out any money for that purpose, and after some controversy the matter was taken to a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Q. At Johnson's request? A. Yes. Four members of the board were in Europe and there was delay in getting a quorum. Finally Sidney G. Johnson appeared on July 15 last before President Henry D. Prout, John R. McCune, M. S. Rosenwald, Thomas Rodd and myself.

As a result of discussions a committee—Messrs. Rodd, Rosenwald and McCune—unanimously demanded the resignations of Prout and Johnson.

JOHNSON AND PROUT FORCED OUT.

Q. Were the resignations submitted? A. Yes. They begged for delay, but they resigned at that meeting.

Q. Did Sidney G. Johnson mention the name of Commissioner Wood? A. Yes. He said he had arranged, or agreed, to pay Commissioner Wood this sum of money if the contract for the Centre Street loop were awarded to our company.

"Did he state," asked Senator Thompson, "that the Public Service Commission stood two and two on that question and that Commissioner Wood had the deciding vote?"

"I don't know that he did," replied

(Continued on Second Page.)

YUAN-SHI-KAI TELLS FUTURE POLICY AS CHINA'S EMPEROR

Will Aim to Cement More Closely Nation's Friendship With United States.

SUBMITS TO PEOPLE. Says They Have Chosen Him Ruler After Finding a Republic Unsuitable.

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In the first public statement by Emperor Yuan-Shi-Kai, cabled to-day to the United Press, the newly proclaimed monarch of China makes known to the world the dominating reasons for the abolition of the republic.

The Emperor also announces his future policy toward America and states his purpose to employ every effort to cement the friendship between the two nations. The cablegram follows:

PEKING, Dec. 14. To the United Press, New York: Your telegram has been translated and submitted to His Majesty's personal. I am instructed to reply as follows:

"The sovereignty of the Chinese Republic resides in the whole body of the people. The conventions of the people's representatives, considering a republic unsuitable on account of historical reasons and public opinion, and wishing to establish permanent peace, have unanimously adopted a constitutional monarchy.

"The status of State Chief is naturally subject to public will. The acting Legislature has reported to me the same and stated that the provincial and district conventions of the people's representatives have unanimously elected me Emperor.

"Firm refusal unavailing. I have been forced to submit to the people's will and have instructed the different ministries and departments to make preparations. The necessary preparations having been made, I will be requested to carry them out with due consideration.

"The relations between China and America have always been most friendly, and the Monarchy's policy will be to cement still closer this friendship and to exert the utmost to promote the industrial and commercial developments of the two nations.

"(Signed),

"ADHIAL TSHAI-TING-KAN," "Private Secretary."

The Chinese Emperor's statement to the United Press is the first information that the new monarchy is to be a constitutional monarchy.

GERMAN AND TURKISH WARSHIPS ARE SUNK

The Former German Cruiser Goeben Also Torpedoed, but Not Seriously Damaged.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The correspondent at Athens of the Milan Secolo says a German submarine has been sunk in the Black Sea off the Bulgarian port of Varna, and that a Turkish torpedo boat has been sunk in the Sea of Marmora by the British.

The Turkish cruiser Sultani Selim, formerly the German warship Goeben, came out into the Black Sea, the correspondent adds, and was torpedoed, though the vessel was not seriously damaged.

Wilson to Reminiscent Method.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—President Wilson will respond to C. McChord in the Interstate Commerce Commission, it was learned to-day. He is now Chairman of the commission.

EX-FIREMAN KILLS TWO, ENDS HIS LIFE; WIFE SAVES GIRL

Schaeffer, Brooding Over Illness, Planned to Annihilate Those in Home.

FIRST FIRED AT WIFE. Retired Fireman Then Killed Daughter and Mother-in-Law at Corona.

Frederick Schaeffer, a pensioned fireman, suffering from the effects of a blow on the head received in the course of duty and from locomotor ataxia, sat down in his home, at No. 6 Forty-second Street, Corona, last night and wrote a long letter to the police, explaining why he meant to kill himself and his whole family.

Early to-day he did his best to carry out the plan. He killed his daughter, Anna, eleven years old; his mother-in-law, Anna Dray; and his wife and killed himself.

In the letter Schaeffer, who retired on a \$58 a month pension in October, 1913, said that his intended act was "the end of fourteen years of married life—a battle with misfortune, accident and sickness, and later with a disaffected wife." He savagely blamed his mother-in-law as a "trouble-maker, man-hater and a curse," saying "it would be a pity to let her live."

Schaeffer said his wife prayed every night for his early death and was planning to put him in an institution, that she set the children against him, struck and kicked him, and he did not want her to live to receive a pension payment of \$2,000 and \$25 a month after his death. As for the children, he said, they were "better off dead than getting the training they got around here."

Two weeks ago Schaeffer told his daughter Harriet of his plan to kill the family and showed her a revolver. The girl told her mother and the two went out and found a policeman, who persuaded Schaeffer to give up the weapon. He promised at the same time to abandon his plan of murder and suicide.

Just after daybreak to-day Schaeffer pressed the muzzle of the revolver against his wife's temple as she lay asleep and fired. The bullet, glancing, did not penetrate the skull, but it stunned Mrs. Schaeffer.

Schaeffer ran into the room where Anna, who is eleven years old, and Harriet slept. They had been awakened by the shot. As Anna sat up he shot her in the forehead. She was instantly killed.

Harriet leaped from bed and ran screaming for the stairs. A shot from Schaeffer's revolver missed her. In the hall Mrs. Schaeffer, dazed and blinded, caught her daughter in her arms and screened her. Schaeffer stood in the door of the girl's room and fired two deliberate shots at the girl. Both struck his wife, one under the shoulder and the other tearing the scalp at the back of the head.

The chambers of the revolver were empty. Schaeffer struck Harriet a terrific blow over the head with the butt of it. The girl and her mother fell to the floor. Schaeffer reloaded the revolver, entered Mrs. Dray's room and shot her dead as she tried to run past him. He then went back to his own room and shot himself through the head. Mrs. Schaeffer and Harriet stumbled out to the street and gave the alarm.

Mrs. Schaeffer was removed to St. John's Hospital at Hunter's Point in an ambulance. The surgeons found that her wounds were not fatal.

Harriet was taken in by neighbors. The shock and fright threw her into a paroxysm, and there is danger of permanent injury to her mind.

GIRL SUES PASTOR FOR \$20,000; SAYS HE REFUSED TO WED

Miss Laura L. Johnson's Action Halts Marriage of Rev. Charles Wilson to Another.

CASE WILL BE FOUGHT. Fiancee of Defendant, Miss Mary L. Clark, Is Daughter of Wall Street Broker.

(Special to The Evening World.)

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—The threatened breach of promise suit by Miss Laura L. Johnson of Minneapolis against Rev. Charles C. Wilson, rector of the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, Roslindale, which resulted in the indefinite postponement of this minister's marriage on Oct. 23 to Miss Mary L. Clark of Burlington, Vt., who is the daughter of a New York stock broker, was filed yesterday in the United States District Court.

Miss Johnson alleges that she and Rev. Mr. Wilson made mutual promises to marry each other; that she is willing to keep her promise, but he is not, and she seeks to recover \$20,000 damages.

Attorney Willard, acting for Miss Johnson, said that the trial will probably take place in March and many witnesses will come from New York and Vermont.

The first intimation of Miss Johnson's suit was given out in the nature of a statement on Oct. 22 by R. Rev. George T. Ellis, Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Vermont, in which he said the Rev. Mr. Wilson had received a notice from Miss Johnson's attorney demanding reparation from Mr. Wilson on the ground of breach of promise of marriage.

Mr. Wilson desired the postponement of his approaching marriage until the suit that was threatened should be started, tried and the matter cleared up, the statement concluded.

Miss Clark, who is the daughter of Louis C. Clark, a wealthy Wall Street broker and whose summer home is one of the show places of Burlington, was prostrated when news of the threatened suit became public, but her family is said to be ready to stand behind Mr. Wilson.

Miss Johnson, who is said to be very pretty and about twenty-four years old, met Rev. Mr. Wilson while she was a student in the University of Vermont in the class of 1914, and while Rev. Mr. Wilson was living at the house of R. Rev. O. C. A. Hall, Bishop of Vermont, in Burlington.

Rev. Mr. Wilson has been rector of the Roslindale church since last spring, prior to which he was assistant at St. Paul's Church in Burlington.

BODY OF MAN IN TRUNK BURIED IN QUICKTIME

Workmen Make Find While Tearing Down House in Philadelphia—Victim Believed Slain.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15.—The body of an unidentified man locked in a trunk which was buried in quicklime was discovered today by workmen who were tearing down a Kensington Avenue house.

The police immediately started an investigation. It is believed that the body is that of a man murdered a few months ago.

WINTER CRUISES TO WARMER CLIMES

All motor and steam ships, sailing into and out of the West Coast of Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, New York, N. Y. City. Telephone Brooklyn 1000.—Adm.

VIENNA PREPARING AN ANSWER TO CALL FOR ANCONA DISAVOWAL

P. S. COMMISSIONER WOOD UNDER INQUIRY TO-DAY BY STATE COMMITTEE



Public Service Commissioner ROBERT COLGATE WOOD

HOMER FOLKS'S DAUGHTER KILLS SELF AT SCHOOL

Suicide at University of Wisconsin, Where She Was Graduate Student.

MADISON, Wis., Dec. 15.—Lailtha Folks of Yonkers, N. Y., a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, committed suicide by shooting herself to-day.

Miss Folks is the daughter of Homer Folks, former Commissioner of Charities of New York, and now Secretary of the State Charities Aid Society. At her home at No. 428 Hawthorne Avenue, Yonkers, Mr. Folks said this afternoon that he had received a telegram from the University of Wisconsin telling him of his daughter's sudden death, but not giving the cause.

"We received a letter from Lailtha a few days ago," Mr. Folks said, "and it was very cheerful. Apparently she had not a care on her mind. She was in good health and I am sure we never knew of a love affair. She was deeply interested in her studies."

Miss Folks was twenty-two years old and graduated from Yonkers College last year. She went to the University of Wisconsin last September to take a series of special courses. Her country estate is a station at Yonkers.

SAILING TO-DAY.

Comanche, Jacksonville, 1 P. M. City of St. Louis, Savannah, 2 P. M.

Greek King Is Said to Have Been Stricken With Influenza and Forbidden by His Physicians to Take Part in Affairs of State.

NO INVASION BY BULGARS, GREEK CABINET ASSERTS

GENEVA (via Paris), Dec. 15.—A despatch from Vienna, via Buchs, Switzerland, states that President Wilson's note to Austria regarding the Ancona incident has produced a profound impression in Government and political circles. The note is said to be resented by a minority.

It is generally believed in Vienna, says the despatch, that Austria will give satisfaction and will pay an indemnity, especially as she has large interests in America.

Baron von Burian, the Austrian Foreign Minister, has called a special council to discuss the matter.

BERLIN (via London), Dec. 15.—Count Ernst von Reventlow, in an article in the Tages Zeitung, says that the note sent by the United States to Austria regarding the Ancona case is characterized by a tone of curt command and hinted threats.

He says he thinks it is remarkable that a note "based upon trustworthy information" and "apparent" facts contains opinions, judgments and demands of specific and most harsh character.

Count von Reventlow states that he regards the treatment in the note of the circumstances of the case as quite superficial and even contradictory. He sees a contradiction particularly in the fact that the note alleges the Ancona tried to escape because the submarine fired upon her, whereas a few sentences later "the ship apparently neither offered resistance nor attempted to escape," the note in addition ignoring completely the official Austrian description of the circumstances.

The true explanation of this is that the note is political rather than an attempt to treat the case objectively, declares the Count.

PASSPORTS FOR BOY-ED AND VON PAPEN GRANTED

British Embassy at Washington Authorized to Issue Them Without Conditions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The British Embassy received to-day from London authorization to issue safe conduct to Capt. Boy-Ed and von Papen, the withdrawn German Naval and Military Attaches.

The safe conducts will be unconditional, it having been decided by the allies not to require the officers to give assurances they will refrain from participation in the war after reaching Germany. L issuance of safe conduct to their successors has not yet been considered. No request has been made.

Capt. Boy-Ed and von Papen will leave New York, barring a change in their plans, on Tuesday next on the Holland-American liner Noordam. This was learned authoritatively to-day.

GERMANS BRING DOWN FOUR ALLIED AIRSHIPS

One Was a Battleplane With Two Motors, Says Berlin War Office.

BERLIN, Dec. 15 (by Wireless to Sayville).—Four allied aeroplanes, including one battle plane with two motors, were brought down by German anti-aircraft guns, the War Office announced to-day, during raids on Bapaume and Peronne, in France, and Vulliam, Baden.

A sensational attack on an English steamship was made by German aviators.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The War Office reports that French aviators yesterday made many flights in instead of enemy aeroplanes. One French aviator made an attack below Valenciennes, Alsace, on an enemy biplane, which was put to rest. Two others engaged in combat three other aeroplanes within the line of the enemy in the Ardennes. One albatross was compelled to land.

PURSUIT OF ALLIES ENDED AT THE BORDER, SAYS BULGAR REPORT.

SOFIA, Dec. 15.—An official communication issued last night, after reviewing the operations which ensued Macedonia of the Anglo-French forces, made this statement: "Not a single hostile soldier is on Macedonian soil. This was the day of its liberation. The pursuit of the enemy was immediately stopped."

An official review of the campaign in Serbia declares Bulgarian troops